

# Market Monitor – Refugee Hosting Areas

## Refugee Settlement Price and Market Functionality Snapshot, 15-31 May 2020

# UGANDA

### OVERVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

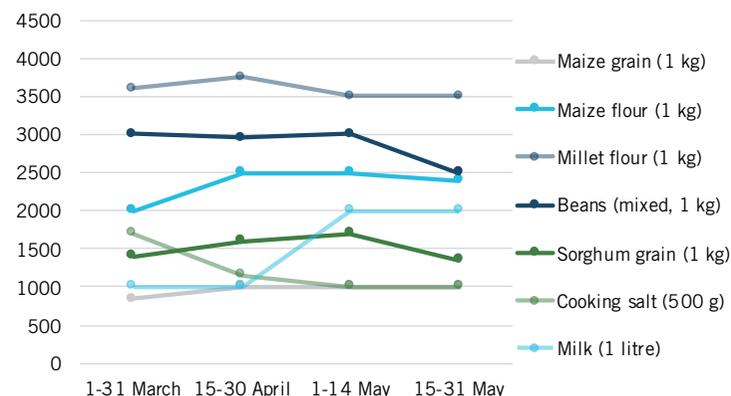
Uganda is one of the top refugee-hosting countries in the world, with a protracted refugee situation and ongoing influxes of refugees from neighboring countries. The country hosts 1,423,740<sup>1</sup> refugees as of 30 April 2020, with nearly 94% of refugees living in settlements primarily in the West Nile and Southwest regions of Uganda.

In view of this situation, the World Food Programme (WFP) has established a regular market price monitoring system across refugee settlements to inform cash-based response approaches. These monitoring efforts predate the COVID-19 crisis. However, due to the changing situation since the Ugandan government introduced COVID-19 containment measures in mid-March 2020, there is a risk that markets could be significantly affected and beneficiaries receiving cash assistance may not be able to access critical goods. In response, with the technical support of the Market Analysis Task Force and REACH in particular, this market price monitoring system has been expanded to capture crucial information to understand the impact of COVID-19 on commodity prices and functionality of markets in refugee communities across Uganda.

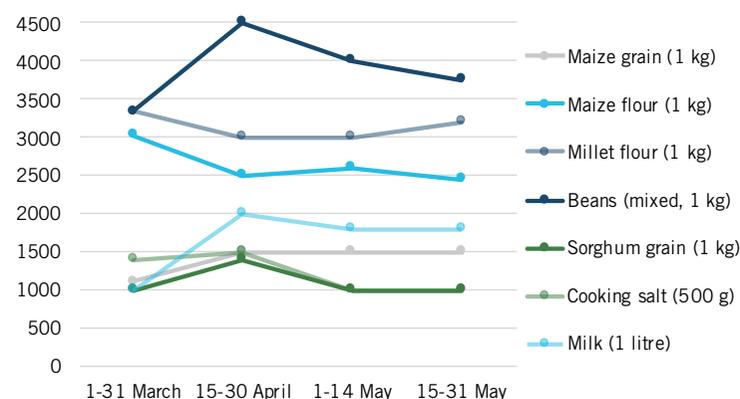
WFP collected the data remotely, using the mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) phone-based survey system, through key informant interviews with traders, individuals selling key commodities, in markets across 13 refugee settlement locations from 15-31 May 2020. Key informants were purposively sampled, meaning the findings are indicative only. The figures represented in this factsheet are presented at the national and regional<sup>2</sup> levels, unless stated otherwise. In total, 165 traders were interviewed nationwide in this round, of these 49 in the Southwest Region and 116 in the West Nile Region.

While limitations in remote data collection (for more details see textbox on page 2) made it impossible to calculate a reliable estimation of the May 2020 Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) price, this market monitoring exercise aims at providing accurate figures of MEB prices in future rounds.

**Graph 1:** Changes in food prices (in UGX) in the Southwest region



**Graph 2:** Changes in food prices (in UGX) in the West Nile region



Latest reported cost of the **full MEB** (March)<sup>3</sup>:  
**502'711 UGX**

Latest reported cost of the **food MEB** (March)<sup>3</sup>:  
**333'619 UGX**

### Uganda Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)

#### Food Items (monthly)

Maize flour	44 kg	Cassava (fresh)	3 kg
Beans	27 kg	Salt	1 kg
Sorghum grain	8 kg	Leafy vegetables	15 kg
Oil	4 L	Fish (smoked)	3 kg
Milk	2 L		

#### Non-Food Items (monthly)

Laundry soap	2.25 kg	Clothing*	3,806 UGX
Firewood	165 kg		

#### Other Components (monthly)

Water*	3,750 UGX	Livelihoods*	37,705 UGX
Education**	22,667 UGX	Transport*	11,001 UGX
Health*	2,669 UGX	Communication*	4,256 UGX
Lighting*	5,000 UGX		

#### Other Items (once per year)

Reusable sanitary pads	8 pc	Saucepan	3 pc
Jerry can (20 L)	2 pc	Plate	5 pc
Jerry can (5 L)	1 pc	Serving spoon	2 pc
Bucket with lid	1 pc	Cup	5 pc
Blanket	5 pc	Mingle (stirrer)	2 pc

The MEB represents the minimum culturally adjusted group of items required to support a five-person refugee household in Uganda for one month. Several core items were identified as being required once per year, so the total cost was divided by 12 to calculate the monthly amount. The cost of the MEB can be used as a proxy for the financial burdens facing households in different locations.

The MEB's contents were defined by the Cash Working Group in consultation with relevant sector leads. Some components were calculated based on item cost and others through a combination of analysis of household expenditures and sector-expert opinion.

\*The starred items or components were calculated based on average sectoral or component cost per month based on expenditure data.

\*\*Education costs were calculated based on average cost per school year.

1. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, [Uganda Comprehensive Refugee Response Portal](#).

2. For analysis purposes, the 13 refugee settlement locations have been aggregated to two regions: West Nile (Palorinya, Palabek, Bidi Bidi, Imvepi, Rhino Camp, Lobule, Adjumani, Kiryandongo settlements) and Southwest (Kyangwali, Rwamwanja, Kyaka, Oruchinga, Nakivale).

3. This price corresponds to the most recent full MEB price monitoring data from March 2020, not data from the data collection period presented in this factsheet. This includes both price data from food and non-food items as well as other components as per above. For more detailed information please refer to the ["Updated Guidance for Uganda Cash Working Group"](#) (Last updated: 12.05.2020).

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## COMMODITY PRICES

**Table 1:** Median commodity prices in Uganda Shillings (UGX)<sup>4</sup>, by refugee settlement location, and percentage price change since March (upper)<sup>5</sup> and last round (1-14 May 2020, lower), respectively.

Item (unit)	Regions						Settlements															
	Nationwide	Southwest Region		West Nile Region		Adjumani	Bidibidi	Imvepi	Kiryandongo	Kyaka II	Kyangwali	Lobule	Nakivale	Oruchinga	Palabek	Palorinya	Rhino Camp	Rwamwanja				
Maize grain (1 kg)	1200 +20% 0%	1000 +18% 0%	1500 +35% 0%	1500 0% 0%	1000 -5% 0%	1500 +50% 0%	1200 0% 0%	1000 +5% 0%	850 +42% -11%	1500 +33% 0%	1000 +25% -39%	1000 +25% 0%	1200 +20% 0%	1500 +12% 0%	1500 +20% 0%	1000 +8% 0%						
Maize flour (1 kg)	2400 -2% -4%	2400 +20% -4%	2450 -19% -6%	2500 +32% 0%	2150 -35% +43%	2000 +33% 0%	2350 -2% +7%	2500 +11% 0%	2700 +13% -10%	2350 -29% -6%	2000 0% 0%	1950 -3% -3%	2500 -33% -4%	2000 +29% -33%	2100 -16% +5%	2500 +25% 0%						
Millet flour (1 kg)	3500 +1% +17%	3500 -3% 0%	3200 -4% +7%	4000 +23% 0%	3500 -16% +8%	3000 -14% 0%	4000 0% -5%	3000 0% 0%	3500 -3% -13%	3500 +5% 0%	3000 -17% +50%	4000 0% 0%	3000 -14% 0%	3200 -4% +7%	3000 +50% -25%	3000 -40% -25%	3500 +56% 0%					
Beans (mixed, 1 kg)	3500 +17% -13%	2500 -17% -17%	3750 +13% -6%	5000 +37% -5%	3000 -10% -8%	4500 +13% 0%	4250 +6% +6%	2500 -29% -17%	3000 0% -25%	5000 +33% 0%	2300 -23% +7%	2500 -11% -9%	3500 +40% 0%	3000 +50% -25%	4200 +17% -7%	2250 -31% -36%						
Sorghum grain (1 kg)	1200 +20% 0%	1350 -4% -21%	1000 0% 0%	1400 -7% 0%	1000 +10% 0%	1800 +89% +20%	1100 +10% -8%	2000 0% n/a	1900 +46% -5%	n/a n/a n/a	1250 -17% -26%	1500 0% 0%	600 -40% 0%	1500 +57% +50%	1000 0% -33%	n/a n/a n/a						
Cooking oil (1 litre)	6000 0% 0%	6000 0% 0%	6000 +20% 0%	6000 0% 0%	5500 +10% +10%	6000 -24% 0%	6500 +8% 0%	6000 +7% 0%	6000 0% 0%	6000 +9% 0%	6000 +7% +20%	6000 0% 0%	6000 +20% 0%	5600 +12% -7%	6000 -4% 0%	6000 +7% 0%						
Fresh cassava* (small bundle)	1000 n/a	1250 n/a	1000 n/a	n/a n/a	2000 n/a	1000 n/a	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	1250 n/a	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	1000 n/a	1000 n/a	1000 n/a	1000 n/a	n/a n/a					
Cooking salt (500 g)	1000 -38% 0%	1000 -41% 0%	1000 -29% 0%	1000 +33% -13%	1500 +7% 0%	1000 -23% -33%	1000 -29% 0%	1000 -64% 0%	1250 -31% -17%	1000 -38% 0%	1000 -50% 0%	1000 -50% +25%	1000 -80% 0%	1000 -47% -33%	1000 -75% -33%	1000 -64% 0%						
Leafy greens* (small bundle)	200 n/a	500 n/a	200 n/a	n/a n/a	200 n/a	200 n/a	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	500 n/a	200 n/a	1000 n/a	n/a n/a	500 n/a	350 n/a	200 n/a	n/a n/a						
Milk (1 litre)	1800 +80% -10%	2000 +100% 0%	1800 +80% 0%	n/a n/a	1000 0% 0%	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	2000 0% 0%	n/a n/a	1000 -33% 0%	n/a n/a	1800 +50% 0%	1500 -25% -25%	1750 n/a n/a	n/a n/a						
Firewood* (small bundle)	2000 n/a	2000 n/a	2000 n/a	n/a n/a	2500 n/a	1000 n/a	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	2000 n/a	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	2000 n/a	1500 n/a	500 n/a	n/a n/a							
Charcoal* (basin)	5000 n/a	7000 n/a	5000 n/a	n/a n/a	5000 n/a	5000 n/a	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	7000 n/a	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	4000 n/a	5000 n/a	5000 n/a	7000 n/a						
Laundry soap (1 kg)	3300 +65% +10%	3500 0% 0%	3300 +65% +32%	3000 n/a 0%	3500 +75% 0%	3300 n/a n/a	3300 -18% n/a	3500 -10% 0%	3250 n/a -13%	2650 +33% +6%	3500 0% +8%	3300 +32% +65%	3300 n/a +10%	3300 +65% +65%	3500 +75% +40%	3500 +17% 0%						

Some of the above listed commodities (\*) are not traded in standard units (litres or kg), but in **informal units** ("bundles" or "basins"). These informal units are not strictly defined by weight, can vary from vendor to vendor or by time, and are therefore **not directly comparable**. To address this issue, before the outbreak of COVID-19, price data was determined via the actual purchase of a given commodity, by its weight and conversion into standard units. Since marketplaces are currently not accessible and data is collected remotely, the **prices reported on this factsheet refer to informal units for the marked commodities**. Historical data on commodity units suggest that there is a notable variation in these across time even within the same location. A "bundle" of cassava in December 2019 in Palorinya is significantly different in weight than a "bundle" of cassava in February 2020, within the same settlement. Due to this variation and the limitation of not being able to collect data in person and weigh commodities, **price changes since March 2020 are only reported for those commodities, which were traded in standard units**.

4. One United States Dollar (USD) was equivalent to 3,749 UGX as of 31 May 2020, according to Oanda currency converter.

5. Pre-COVID-19 price data for Adjumani settlement corresponds to prices collected in December 2019. For all other settlements, March 2020 data is used.

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## MARKET FUNCTIONALITY<sup>6</sup>

### TRADER AND CUSTOMER BEHAVIOR

	% of interviewed traders reporting a decrease in the number of vendors in their marketplace:			% of interviewed traders reporting a decrease of > 50% in the number of vendors in their marketplace: <sup>5</sup>			% of interviewed traders reporting a decrease in the number of customers in their marketplace:			% of interviewed traders reporting a decrease of > 50% in the number of customers in their marketplace: <sup>7</sup>		
Nationwide	YES	14%		YES	4%		YES	26%		YES	1%	
	NO	86%		NO	96%		NO	74%		NO	99%	
Southwest Region	YES	2%		YES	0%		YES	16%		YES	3%	
	NO	98%		NO	100%		NO	84%		NO	97%	
West Nile Region	YES	19%		YES	5%		YES	30%		YES	0%	
	NO	81%		NO	95%		NO	70%		NO	100%	

### STOCK AND SUPPLY

	% of interviewed traders reporting difficulty in obtaining enough supply to meet demand:			% of interviewed traders reporting a change in volume of cross-border trade:			% of interviewed traders reporting concern that their stocks will run out within one week following data collection:			Top 3 items traders reported difficulty in obtaining: <sup>8,9</sup>		
Nationwide	YES	33%		YES	1%		YES	19%		1	Cereals	47%
	NO	67%		NO	99%		NO	81%		2	WASH items	8%
Southwest Region	YES	71%		YES	4%		YES	10%		3	No further items reported	
	NO	29%		NO	96%		NO	90%		1	Cereals	57%
West Nile Region	YES	26%		YES	0%		YES	23%		2	No further items reported	
	NO	74%		NO	100%		NO	77%		3	No further items reported	

### Top 3 reasons why traders reported difficulty in obtaining enough supply to meet demand:<sup>6</sup>

Nationwide	1	Difficulty transporting items to marketplace	63%	Southwest Region	1	Supplier unable to provide enough	71%	West Nile Region	1	Difficulty transporting items to marketplace	64%
	2	Supplier unable to provide enough	33%		2	Difficulty transporting items to marketplace	57%		2	Not enough money to source items	26%
	3	Not enough money to source items	24%		3	Producers not producing enough	43%		3	Supplier unable to provide enough	26%

6. All indicators presented on this page refer to a recall period of one week prior to data collection, if not indicated otherwise.

7. This indicator refers to the subset of traders or customers who reported a decrease in the number of vendors or customers in the marketplace.

8. Respondents could select multiple response options.

9. Water, sanitation and hygiene items include typical sanitation items such as laundry soap, sanitary pads, jerrycans or basins; education items include exercise books, pencils and pens; energy items include firewood and charcoal; shelter items include roofing nails, nylon rope, bricks, grass thatch, eucalyptus poles; household items include utensils, clothing, beddings, underwear, torches; agricultural inputs include fertilizers, pesticides, hoes and pangas.

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## SAFETY AND REGULATIONS<sup>10</sup>

	% of interviewed traders reporting changes in perceptions of security relating to operating in their marketplace:	Top reported reasons by traders for feeling more or less secure: <sup>11</sup>
Nationwide	<p><b>LESS SECURE</b> 3%  </p> <p><b>MORE SECURE</b> 9% ■</p> <p><b>NO DIFFERENCE</b> 88% ■■■■</p>	<p>1 Increased presence of security personnel 73%</p> <p>2 Implementation of rules and regulations 20%</p>
Southwest Region	<p><b>LESS SECURE</b> 2%  </p> <p><b>MORE SECURE</b> 12% ■</p> <p><b>NO DIFFERENCE</b> 86% ■■■■</p>	<p>1 Increased presence of security personnel 83%</p> <p>2 Implementation of rules and regulations 17%</p>
West Nile Region	<p><b>LESS SECURE</b> 3%  </p> <p><b>MORE SECURE</b> 8% ■</p> <p><b>NO DIFFERENCE</b> 89% ■■■■</p>	<p>1 Increased presence of security personnel 67%</p> <p>2 Implementation of rules and regulations 22%</p>

## PAYMENT AND LIQUIDITY

	% of interviewed traders accepting mobile money payments when data was collected:	% of interviewed traders reporting mobile money or bank agents closing:
Nationwide	<p><b>YES</b> 21% ■</p> <p><b>NO</b> 79% ■■■■</p>	<p><b>YES</b> 12% ■</p> <p><b>NO</b> 66% ■■■■</p> <p><b>DON'T KNOW</b> 23% ■■</p>
Southwest Region	<p><b>YES</b> 18% ■</p> <p><b>NO</b> 82% ■■■■</p>	<p><b>YES</b> 0%</p> <p><b>NO</b> 73% ■■■■</p> <p><b>DON'T KNOW</b> 27% ■■</p>
West Nile Region	<p><b>YES</b> 22% ■</p> <p><b>NO</b> 78% ■■■■</p>	<p><b>YES</b> 17% ■</p> <p><b>NO</b> 62% ■■■■</p> <p><b>DON'T KNOW</b> 21% ■■</p>

	% of interviewed traders reporting restrictions to transport some goods to the market: <sup>12</sup>	Top 3 items traders reported restrictions to transport to the market: <sup>11</sup>
Nationwide	<p><b>YES</b> 4%  </p> <p><b>NO</b> 96% ■■■■</p>	<p>1 Household Items 67%</p> <p>2 Shelter items 50%</p> <p>3 Education items 50%</p>
Southwest Region	<p><b>YES</b> 6%  </p> <p><b>NO</b> 94% ■■■■</p>	<p>1 Education items 100%</p> <p>2 Shelter items 100%</p> <p>3 Household Items 100%</p>
West Nile Region	<p><b>YES</b> 3%  </p> <p><b>NO</b> 97% ■■■■</p>	<p>1 Cereals 67%</p> <p>2 Household Items 33%</p> <p>3 No further items reported</p>

## KEY CHALLENGES

Top 3 challenges reported by traders: <sup>13</sup>	
1 Public and private transport restrictions limiting traders and customers from accessing markets	24%
2 Lack of customers	16%
3 Reduced sales	16%

### ABOUT THE MARKET ANALYSIS TASK FORCE

The recently established Market Analysis Task Force is directly reporting to the Uganda Cash Working Group. Its core objective is to foster coordination around relevant market analysis, to harmonize approaches, and to inform the feasibility of cash-based programming from the key perspective of market functionality.

### FURTHER RESOURCES:

To see the past products as part of this series, [click here](#).

PREPARED BY:



ON BEHALF OF:



Uganda Cash Working Group,  
Market Analysis Task Force



10. All indicators presented on this page refer to a recall period of one week prior to data collection, if not indicated otherwise.

11. Respondents could select multiple response options.

12. Restrictions transporting goods could be related to country-wide movement restrictions, curfew hours, and cross-border trade, among others.

13. Respondents replied to an open question. Answers were subsequently codified. These challenges are presented at the national level, as there were minimal regional variations.